

S E C T I O N 3

# Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation

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This section describes the environmental consequences (i.e. potential effects) that would occur to the natural and human environment from implementation of the Proposed Action and each alternative described in Section 2. Information on environmental consequences is presented for each resource and environmental topic analyzed in the Draft EIS. Environmental consequences include two types of effects: 1) short-term “temporary” effects associated primarily with the construction phase of the project; 2) long-term “permanent” effects associated with construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Action and each alternative.

The analysis of environmental consequences in Section 3 is based on the assumption that the Project Design Features (PDFs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in Section 2 (and listed in Appendix A) would be incorporated into, and implemented as part of, the Proposed Action and each action alternative. Mitigation measures (i.e. specific means, measures or practices) intended to reduce or eliminate adverse effects that may remain after implementation of the PDFs and BMPs are also described.

Because the Echanis Wind Energy Project is considered a connected non-Federal action, the analysis of the transmission line proposal and the Echanis Project are included together in this Draft EIS. The environmental consequences specific to the Echanis Project are presented separately for each resource and environmental topic under the heading “Echanis Effects Common to all Action Alternatives.”

Section 3 also discusses the potential “cumulative effects” on specific resources that could be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action and each alternative. Cumulative effects are those effects on the environment that could result from the incremental effect of the Proposed Action and alternatives when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such those actions.

Section 3 concludes with a brief discussion of the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the proposal, if it is implemented.

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